

QST



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February 2018 www.arrl.org

DIGITAL EDITION

The Truth About Trees and Antenna Gain

QST Reviews

TYT MD-2017

Dual-Band Analog and DMR Handheld Transceiver

Heil PR 10 Home-Station Microphone Package

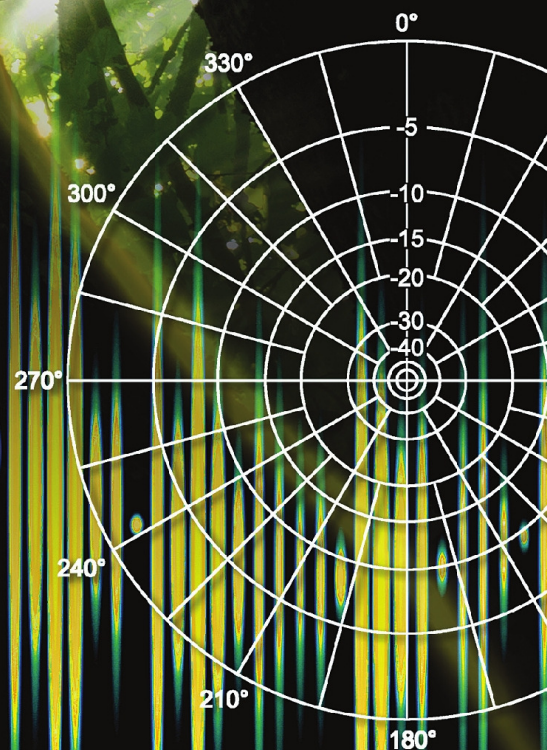
Elenco DT-100 Diode/Transistor Tester Kit

HamGadgets Universal Keying Adapter 3+ Kit

AlexMic Speaker/Microphone for the
Elecraft KX2 and KX3

SOTABEAMS Click2Tune

Accessory for Icom Transceivers



DIGITAL FEATURE



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and DMR Handheld Transceiver

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WW1USA: A Series of Truly Special Events

Since June 2014, the WW1USA team has hosted 15 events to commemorate the centennial of World War I.

Randal R. Schulze, KD0HKD



Two different types of towers at the National World War I Museum and Memorial at Kansas City. [Raytown Amateur Radio Club, Inc., photo]

WW1USA is a series of special events (usually three to four each year) that observe the multiyear centennial of the first World War. Both indoor and outdoor events are held at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, hosted by the WW1USA team with assistance from the local Amateur Radio community, who round up operators and gear for event operations.

The team uses the events to commemorate significant points from the Great War, including the Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand (the event that many consider the trigger for World War I); the Christmas Truce; the Battles of Gallipoli, Jutland, and the Somme; the Beginning of War in the Air, and the entry of the United States into the war.

The team has both indoor and outdoor events to take advantage of Kansas City's seasonal weather, and we work closely with the Museum for logistical support. During the indoor events, the Museum provides internet access for operators looking to take advantage of remote-control technology, where the operators are working stations located elsewhere. For the outdoor events, the Museum provides tents. Local ham radio clubs muster radios, towers, and antennas, and set up stations similar to an ARRL Field Day event, while the Raytown Amateur Radio Club offers the use of its 15 kW portable generator to provide electrical power.

The History of WW1USA

The WW1USA Special Events were the brainchild of our friend, Clay Wilson, N0WWI (SK). Clay was a volunteer at the Museum, and was very passionate about history as well as Amateur Radio. In 2013, he presented the Museum's Board of Directors with his idea for an Amateur Radio special event to help commemorate the centennial of World War I. The aim was to bring positive, worldwide attention to the Centennial of the Great War, and to the National World War I Museum and Memorial. The Board agreed to go along with the idea for at least one Amateur Radio special event to see how well it proceeded.



The 80th Division Headquarters wireless station. In charge of Sgt. E.N. Wickliffe, who maintained communications back to corps and Army Headquarters. He received daily press reports from Eiffel Tower, Paris, Berlin, and Rome. First Lieutenant J.P. Ferriter, 80th Division radio officer. Ippecourt Department of Meuse, France. September 15, 1918. [National WWI Museum and Memorial, photo]

Ham Radio Heaven in the Kansas City Metro Area

Within the metro area Kansas City Amateur Radio community, there are about 30 separate Amateur Radio clubs and organizations, and they're all thriving. While many are general-interest clubs, some specialize in various aspects of this great hobby and avocation. Many individual hams are members of more than one of these clubs or organizations, so there's something for everyone.

While the WW1USA core team provides the overall management and direction for these special events, each event is managed and led by one of the individual clubs. And while an individual club might be the sponsor of a particular event, everyone is welcome to participate.

Without the coordinated efforts of these groups, operations would be nearly impossible, as neither the Museum nor the WW1USA team own any radio equipment, antennas, towers, etc. The necessary gear has been provided by Amateur Radio clubs, individual hams, manufacturers, or vendors.

For example, during a 2016 event, we were loaned a tower on wheels from the Ararat Shrine Amateur Radio Club, a generator from the Raytown Amateur Radio Club, two HF radios from Joe Krout, W0PWJ, and a prototype HF amplifier was given to us by Ralph Crumrine, N0KC.

The WW1USA special event series truly is an example of the power of mutual cooperation at its finest!



Hams from several local clubs work together at this indoor operation from February 2016. Seated left to right: Joe Krout, W0PWJ; Bruce Bielby, K0VMM; Noah Bielby, N0AHB; Charles Vanway, N0CVW; John Morris, N0EI; Bill Gery, KA2FNK, and Herb Fiddick, NZ0F. Standing: Rob Underwood, K0RU, and John Raydo, K0IZ. [Raytown Amateur Radio Club, Inc., photo]



The August 2014 outdoor deployment of a WW1USA special event. From left to right we see the communications trailer provided by US Towers on which a SteppIR vertical antenna is mounted, the operations tent with the Liberty Memorial in the background, a large tower on wheels provided by US Towers (background), and the tower on wheels provided by the Ararat Shrine Amateur Radio Club (foreground). [Raytown Amateur Radio Club, Inc., photo]

The first special event, due to its historical anniversary, coincided with 2014 ARRL Field Day. The weekend had many other events, ceremonies, dignitaries, and guests at the Museum to mark the centennial of the World War I. Many of these dignitaries and guests stopped by our operations tent to see what we were doing, and came away better informed about some history and about Amateur Radio. The Museum was so pleased and impressed with the outcome of our special event, they asked that we continue with more events through the next several years as part of the World War I centennial commemoration. Though Clay passed away in 2015, we were pleased he was able to see his vision come to life.

2018 Events: Work Us January 27 – 28

The first of WW1USA's upcoming operating events will be held on January 27 – 28 to commemorate Wilson's "14 Points" speech in January 1918.

The WW1USA team would be happy to gain the assistance and participation of all hams, anywhere! If you can come to Kansas City to operate at one of the special events, we'd love to have you.

For more information on how to participate, check out WW1USA's website (ww1usa.org) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/arcWW1USA>). Any station who makes contact with WW1USA can request a participation certificate or a QSL card.

Other 2018 events include:

- May 12 – 13: Commemorating the Battle of Cantigny
- September 22 – 23: Commemorating the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of World War I
- November 11: Commemorating Armistice Day

The National World War I Museum and Memorial

According to their website, the National World War I Museum and Memorial, located in Kansas City, Missouri, is America's leading institution dedicated to remembering, interpreting, and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community. The Museum holds the most comprehensive collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public Museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history, and experiences of the war.

In fulfilling this mission, the Museum strongly encourages public involvement through engaging events and exhibits. For example, the photographic exhibition *Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace: The Doughboys 1917-1918* is currently traveling the US, telling the story of the "healed scars of the first World War through our only remaining living witness: the fields of battle themselves." Another fascinating exhibit highlights the *Posters as Munitions, 1917*, recognizing wartime posters as the "spreading [form of] national propaganda with unlimited possibilities."

The Museum also offers online exhibits, such as *Home Before the Leaves Fall*, a Google Cultural Institute presentation on the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, as well as a slideshow of photos from a previous exhibit, *They Shall Not Pass*, which focuses on the pivotal battles of Somme and Verdun.

The Museum further proves its dedication to sharing, remembering, and understanding the Great War in the development of its searchable database of educational resources to aid with lesson plans, assignments, and field trips.

The partnership between WW1USA and the Museum has grown very strong over the past 4 years. Because education and public involvement remains a priority for both the Museum and the WW1USA team, the Museum offers a special discount admission during all of the WW1USA events. Anyone showing an Amateur Radio operator's license, including up to three additional people in their party, will pay only \$5 admission. Making this offer even more special is that guided tours of this world-class Museum are provided to groups of Amateur Radio operators and their families.

The National World War I Museum and Memorial is open year-round. For more information about event dates, visit <https://www.theworldwar.org/>.



A Chronology Wall illustrates the World War I timeline, accompanied by photographs, objects, documents of first-person accounts, and short videos. [National WWI Museum and Memorial, photo]



Jamie Charlton, AD0AB, of the Johnson County (Kansas) Radio Amateurs and John Raydo, K0IZ, of Westcliffe, Colorado, lend their talents and support to the operation. [Charles Vanway, N0CVW, photo]



Charles Vanway, N0CVW, and John Raydo, K0IZ, work stations by remote control at the July 2016 indoor event. John's remote station is located on a mountaintop in Colorado. [Herb Fiddick, NF0Z, photo]

WW1USA Statistics 2014 – 2017

- 15 total operations
- Nine indoor, remote operations
- 18,125 total contacts
- 7,750 contacts from remote operations
- Worked All States on SSB and 20 meters
- 11 of 12 Canadian provinces, 64 countries
- Contacts on 12 different bands in five different modes
- Over 250 operators, including those from Kansas City Metro, St. Joseph, Warrensburg, Joplin, Colorado, and Michigan
- Participation has been sponsored by six different local and regional Amateur Radio clubs, including Raytown Amateur Radio Club, Santa Fe Trail Amateur Radio Club, Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club, Ararat Shrine Amateur Radio Club, Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club, and Joplin Amateur Radio Club
- Equipment sponsorship from Icom, US Tower, Associated Radio, and KC Web

2017 Events

Over the last year, WW1USA hosted four special events commemorating historical milestones such as the unrestricted German submarine warfare resuming (January 28 – 29), the United States entering the war and declaring war on Germany (April 29 – 30), the Battle of Passchendaele (July 22 – 23), and the US troops beginning combat operations (October 14 – 15).

The October 2017 event was a bit difficult, with severe storms and 40 – 60 MPH winds on the first day of operating. All operations were suspended until after the weather cleared early the next morning. Nothing was damaged, and no one was injured. In spite of losing over 12 hours of operating time, the team was still able to make 473 contacts for the weekend. Sunday provided beautiful weather, which allowed many visitors, both hams and non-hams alike, to stop by and take a look at what we were doing.

Get Involved in 2018

More participation is always welcome, and we'd love to be joined by any hams who want to guest operate in our 2018 events (see the sidebar,

“2018 Events: Work Us January 27 – 28”). The first event will be held January 27 – 28, and if you can't operate, make sure to get on the air and contact us. For more information, check out our website or contact us at ww1usa@theworldwar.org. We'd love to hear from you.

Randy Schulze, KD0HKD, grew up in Kearney, Nebraska, and attended Kearney State College (now known as the University of Nebraska at Kearney) and Dana College (Blair, Nebraska), majoring in radio broadcasting. Randy served as a law enforcement officer for 16 years as a 911 communications operator, police officer, and chief of police before entering a career in information technology for the past 20 years. Although he was involved in radio communications professionally throughout his life, Randy did not get fully involved in Amateur Radio until spring 2009, upgrading to Amateur Extra class in 2012. Randy resides in Kansas City, Missouri, with his wife and family, and is a manager at IBM. He's an active member and president of the Raytown (Missouri) Amateur Radio Club and is the Chairman for the Mo-Kan Regional Council of Amateur Radio Organizations.

For updates to this article, see the QST Feedback page at www.arri.org/feedback.

